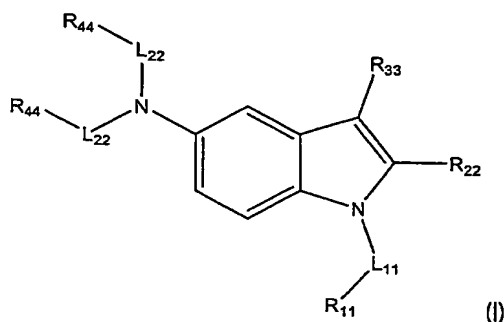


We claim:

1. A compound of formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

L^{11} is carboxyl, or a covalent bond when R^{11} is H;

R^{11} is H except when L^{11} is carboxyl, phenyl substituted with 1-3 R^{50} , or C_{4-6} -heteroaryl containing 1-3 heteroatoms selected from the group N, S, and O and substituted with 1-3 R^{50} ;

R^{22} is H, or C_{1-6} alkyl, such as CH_3 , t-butyl, or neo-pentyl;

R^{33} is H, CH_3 or C_{1-3} alkyl;

each L^{22} is independently carboxyl ($C(O)$), C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl($C(O)$) or a covalent bond;

each R^{44} is independently H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, C_{3-7} cycloalkanone, optionally substituted C_{3-7} monocyclic or C_{7-13} bicyclic aryl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atom, or optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or S atom, wherein said optional substitutions are one to four R^6 groups;

each R^{50} is independently H, halo, Cl, F, CF_3 , C_1-C_3 per fluoro, C_1-C_3 per halo, $-OC_1-C_3$ per halo, NO_2 , CH_3 , R^7 , $-OCH_3$, $-OR^7$, $-SR^7$, $-CN$, $-NHR^7$, $-N(R^7)_2$, $-CON(H)R^{23}CON(R^7)_2$, $-R^{23}N(H)R^7$, $-R^{23}N(R^7)_2$;

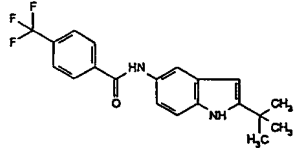
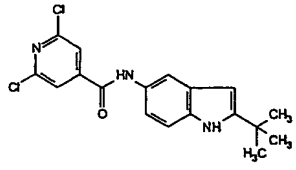
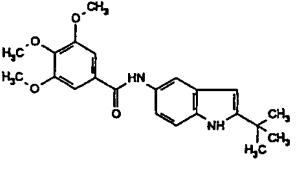
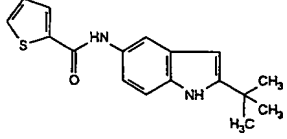
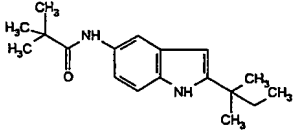
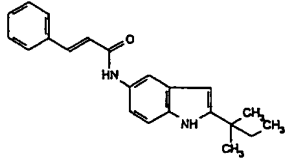
each R^6 is independently H, halo, Cl, F, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{R}^{50}$, $-\text{SR}^{50}$, $-\text{OR}^{50}$, $-\text{CN}$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^{50})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{50}$, $-\text{R}^{23}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{50}$, $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^{50})_2$, $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkanone, C_{4-6} cycloalkylamine, C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atoms or a $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{12}$ monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or S atom;

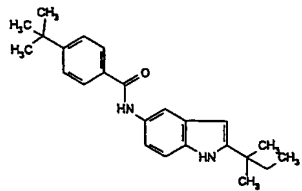
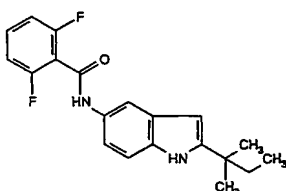
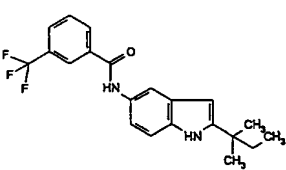
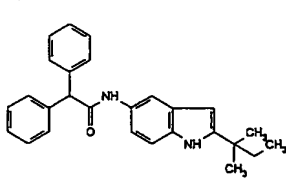
R^7 is H, halo or C_{1-6} alkyl;

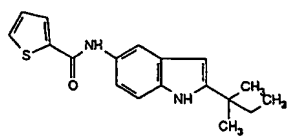
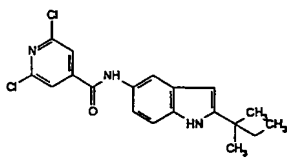
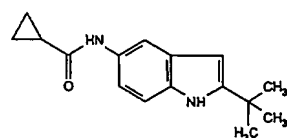
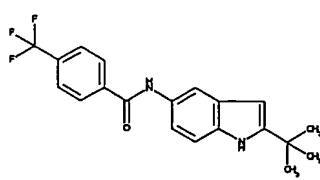
R^{23} is a bond or is C_{1-6} alkyl;

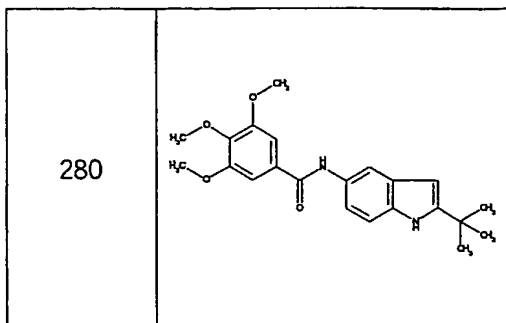
with the proviso that R^{22} is not CH_3 when R^{11} is H;

with the further proviso that the compound is not:

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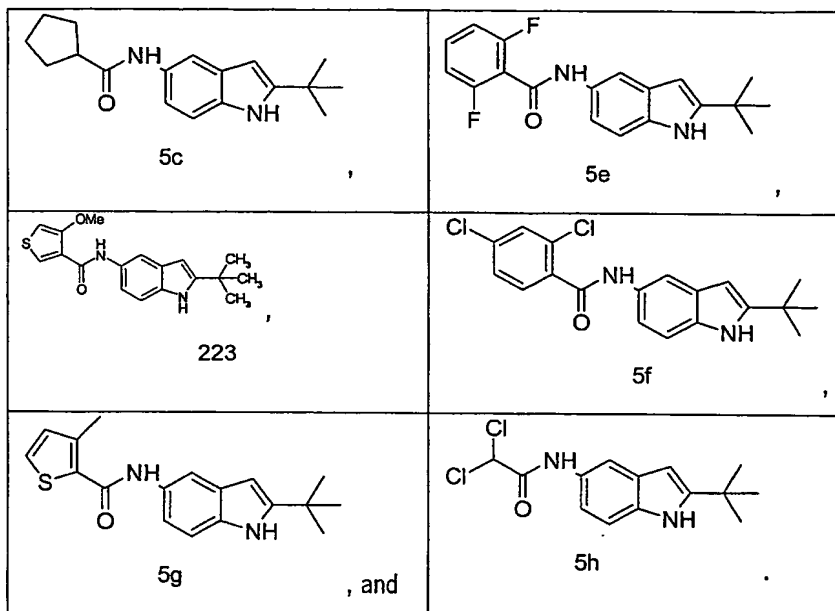
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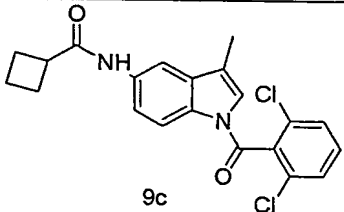
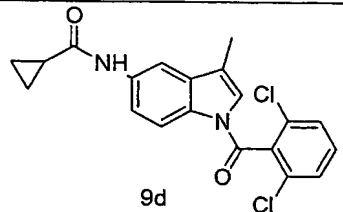
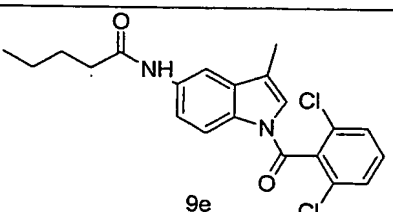
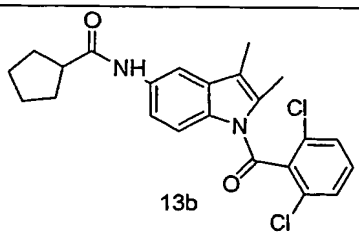
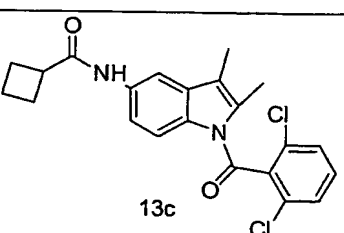
2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one L²² is carboxyl.
3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein the R⁴⁴ attached to said at least one L²² carboxyl is optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, C₃₋₇ cycloalkanone, optionally substituted C₅₋₇ monocyclic or C₃₋₁₃ bicyclic aryl, optionally substituted C₃₋₆ monocyclic or C₅₋₁₃ bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atom, or optionally substituted C₃-C₁₃ monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or S atom.
4. A compound according to claim 4 wherein R⁴⁴ is optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, optionally substituted C₅₋₇ monocyclic aryl, or optionally substituted C₃₋₆ monocyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S.
5. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R⁴⁴ is optionally substituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₅₋₇ monocyclic aryl, or optionally substituted C₃₋₆ monocyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S.
6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R²² is t-butyl or Neopentyl, wherein R¹¹ is H.
7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein R³³ is H.
8. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R²² is t-butyl.

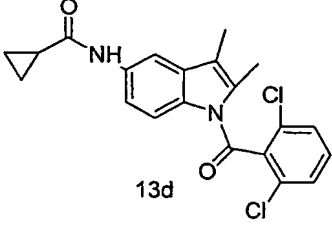
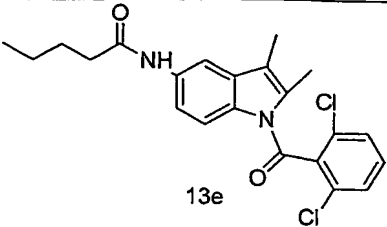
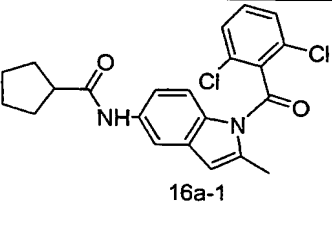
9. A compound according to claim 8 wherein R^{33} is H.
10. A compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

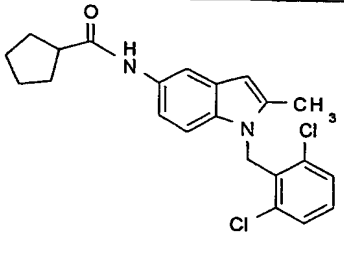


11. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R^{22} is neo-pentyl.
12. A compound according to claim 11 wherein R^{33} is H.
13. A compound according to claim 1 wherein L^{11} is carboxyl.
14. A compound according to claim 13 wherein R^{11} is Phenyl or Pyridyl.
15. A compound according to claim 3 wherein L^{11} is carboxyl.
16. A compound according to claim 15 wherein R^{11} is Phenyl or Pyridyl.

17. A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^{22} is CH_3 .
18. A compound according to claim 17 wherein R^{33} is H or CH_3 .
19. A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^{11} is substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, Cl, F, CF_3 , CH_3 or $-OCH_3$.
20. A compound according to claim 19 wherein R^{22} is CH_3 .
21. A compound according to claim 19 wherein R^{33} is H or CH_3 .
22. A compound according to claim 20 wherein R^{33} is H or CH_3 .
23. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

5-(Cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-1-(2',6'-dichlorobenzoyl)-3-methylindole,	 9c
 9d	 9e
 13b	 13c

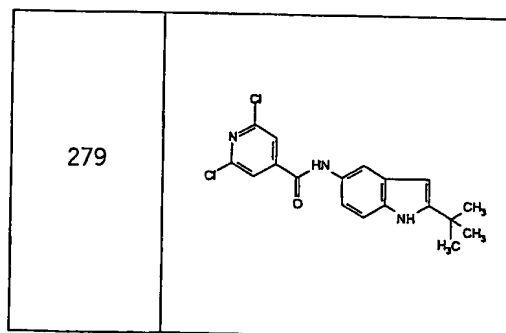
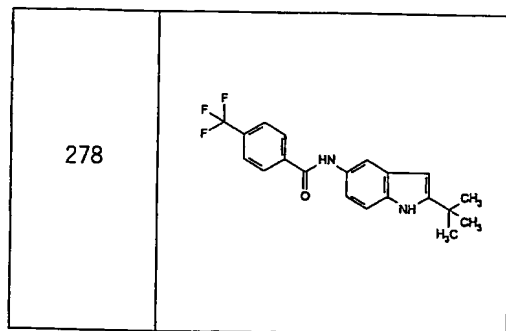
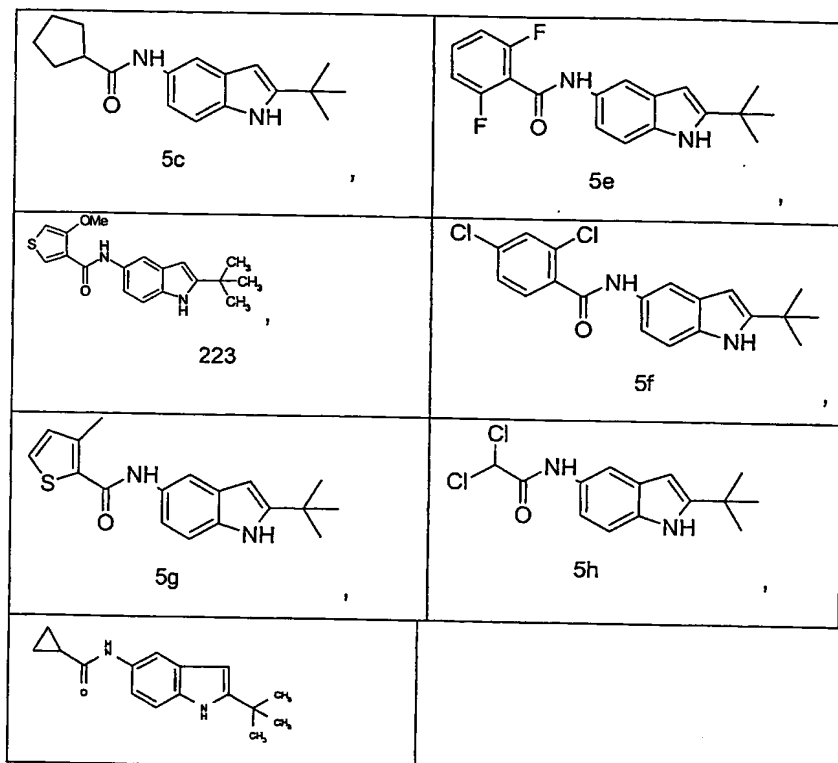
 <p>13d</p>	 <p>13e</p>
 <p>16a-1</p>	<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(4-methoxy-3-thiophenylcarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(3-pyridyl-2-acetamido)-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>5-Cyclohexanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-dichlorobenzoyl)-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>5-Cyclobutanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-dichlorobenzoyl)-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(3-methyl-2-thiophenylcarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(2-ethylbutanoyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(2-methylpropanoyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2'-Chloro-6'-fluorobenzoyl)-5-Cyclohexanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2'-Chloro-6'-fluorobenzoyl)-5-cyclobutanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2'-Chloro-6'-fluorobenzoyl)-5-cyclopropanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2'-Chloro-6'-fluorobenzoyl)-5-cyclopentanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2'-Chloro-6'-fluorobenzoyl)-5-(3-oxo-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(2-methylbutanoyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(n-pentanoyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2',6'-Dimethoxybenzoyl)-5-(3-oxo-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>1-(2',6'-Dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(3-oxo-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>1-(2'-Fluoro-6'-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)-5-(3-oxo-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole,</p>
<p>5-Cyclopropanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-difluorobenzoyl)-2-methylindole,</p>	<p>5-Cyclopentanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-difluorobenzoyl)-2-methylindole,</p>

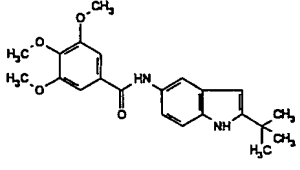
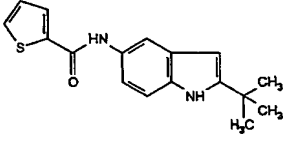
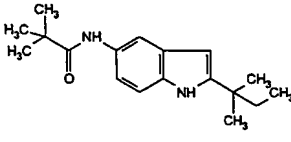
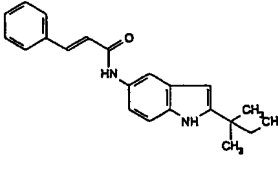
5-Cyclobutanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-difluorobenzoyl)-2-methylindole,	
1-(2'-Chlorobenzoyl)-5-cyclopentanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,	1-(o-Anisoyl)-5-cyclopentanecarbonylamino-2-methylindole,
5-Cyclopentanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-dichloro-4'-pyridylcarbonyl)-2-methylindole,	
1-(2',6'-Dichloro-4-pyridylcarbonyl)-5-(3-oxo-1-cyclopentanecarbonyl)amino-2-methylindole, and	5-Cyclohexanecarbonylamino-1-(2',6'-dimethylbenzoyl)-2-methylindole.

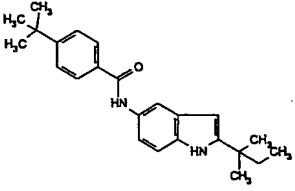
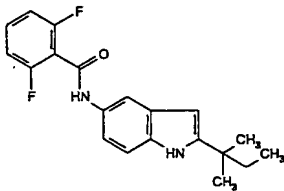
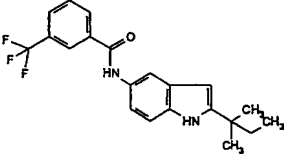
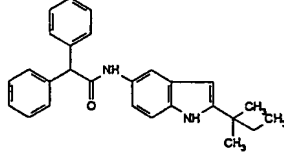
24. A compound according to any one of claims 1-23 wherein at least one L^{22} is a bond and the R^{44} attached thereto is H.
25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.
26. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25 wherein for said compound at least one L^{22} is carboxyl.
27. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 wherein for said compound the R^{44} attached to said at least one L^{22} carboxyl is optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl containing at least one N, O or S atom, C_{3-7} cycloalkanone, optionally substituted C_{5-7} monocyclic or C_{3-13} bicyclic aryl, optionally substituted C_{3-6} monocyclic or C_{5-13} bicyclic heteroaryl containing at least one N, O, or S atom, or optionally substituted C_3-C_{13} monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing at least one N, O, or S atom.

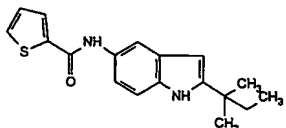
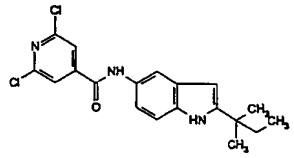
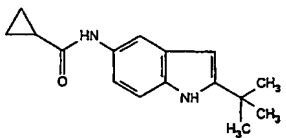
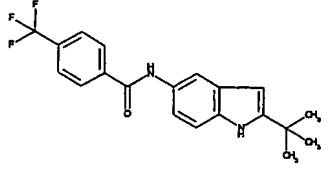
28. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 wherein for said compound R²² is t-butyl or neo-pentyl.

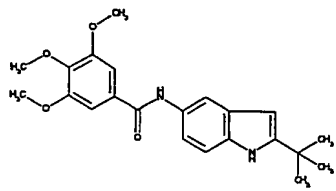
29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:



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288	 <chem>CCCC1=CNC2=CC=C(NC(=O)c3ccsc3)C=C2</chem>
289	 <chem>CCCC1=CNC2=CC=C(NC(=O)c3cc(Cl)c(Cl)cn3)C=C2</chem>
290	 <chem>CCCC1=CNC2=CC=C(NC(=O)C3CC3)C=C2</chem>
278	 <chem>CCCC1=CNC2=CC=C(NC(=O)c3ccc(C(F)(F)F)cc3)C=C2</chem>

280	 <chem>CCCC1=CNC2=CC=C(NC(=O)c3cc(OC)c(OC)c(OC)c3)C=C2</chem>
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30. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 wherein for said compound L^{11} is carboxyl.
31. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30 wherein for said compound R^{11} is Phenyl or Pyridyl.
32. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 wherein for said compound R^{22} is CH_3 .
33. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 wherein for said compound R^{33} is H or CH_3 .
34. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 wherein for said compound R^{33} is H or CH_3 .
35. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 25-34 wherein for said compound at least one L^{22} is a bond and the R^{44} attached thereto is H.
36. A method of inhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) proliferation comprising contacting and HCV infected cell with a compound according to any one of Claims 1-23.
37. A method of inhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) proliferation comprising contacting and HCV infected cell with a compound according to Claim 24.
38. A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV, said method comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to any one of Claims 25-34.
39. A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV, said method comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to Claim 35.

- 40. The method of Claim 38, wherein said mammal is a human.
- 41. The method of Claim 39, wherein said mammal is a human.

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